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The Ogden Standard

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UTAH: Fair tonight and Saturday,
much colder tonight.

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HALIFAX DEAD PILED HIGH

Conditions Appalling and Stupendous Task Confronts Nova Scotia

ITALIANS LOSE 4,000 MORE MEN

GREAT BATTLE OF
ASIAGO RAGING
DAY AND NIGHT

ROME, Dec. 7.—"On the Asiago the battle is continuing without interruption," says today's official report.

"The withdrawal of our troops from the Meletta salient to the rear line of defense was accomplished on Wednesday night and yesterday morning under protection of the artillery which held up advance of the enemy's masses.

"An enemy party attempting to come down into the Franzella valley was driven back in disorder by machine gun fire."

Germans Driven Off.

PARIS, Dec. 7.—Two attempts were made by the Germans to attack the French lines east of the Meuse in the Verdun region last night after a heavy bombardment. The attacking forces, the war office announced today, were driven off by the French fire.

BERLIN, Dec. 7, via London.—Four thousand more Italians have been captured in the new Austro-German offensive on the northern front, bringing up the total to 15,000, according to today's official communication.

Monte Sisemol was captured by storm, the statement says.

Both Sides Lose Heavily.

The importance of the fighting around Asiago is not underestimated, but it is believed the line of resistance on which the Italians have retired is capable of holding the Franzella and Gadenia passes leading into the Brenta valley and the open plain, some miles below. The fighting has been of the most desperate character and while the enemy has paid dearly for his success, the Italian losses also have been very heavy.

Enemy Reserves Poured In.

An eye witness from the scene of operations gave the correspondent details of the extent and bloody nature of the carnage. Enemy reserves were poured in until the Italians were far outnumbered. They continued to struggle desperately however, and in one case a small detachment of Bersaglieri met the shock of an entire Austrian regiment. Austrian Kaiserjaegers displayed unprecedented ferocity, using stilettes as well as bayonets, in hand-to-hand fighting.

But the greatest single incident of heroism and loss was in the case of several detachments of Alpini which held Monte Castelgomberto against overwhelming odds until surrounded. They encircled they made repeated charges but the heavy surrounding lines held and the entire party was still on the mountain when the remainder of the Italian line fell back. In another case one brigade of Bersaglieri lost a great number of officers and men in the same proportion.

Division for Every Kilometer.

The extent of the enemy reserves is shown by their concentration in the average amount of a division for every kilometer. The artillery fire also has been the heaviest since the new Italian line was formed.

Conditions this morning were virtually unchanged. Much depends upon the ability of the Italians to hold the passes to which they now have retired, commanding the Brenta valley and the plains.

GREAT TURNING MOVEMENT

ITALIAN HEADQUARTERS IN NORTHERN ITALY, Thursday, Dec. 6.—(By the Associated Press).—The big operation which the enemy is attempting in the north is virtually a great executed six weeks ago in the great offensive above Gorizia. At that time he broke through the upper end of the line and thus endangered the lower end. This is exactly the situation which is being repeated today.

It has been established that while Field Marshal Conrad von Hotzen-dorf is directing the movement, General Krobath's forces also are co-operating. In addition to the superiority in numbers, the Austro-Germans are taking advantage of the backward season and are striking before the mountain snows impede operations.

The weather this year happens to be favorable to the enemy. The snow is only a few inches deep whereas in De-

cember the snow usually reaches a depth from four to ten feet deep. One such snowfall now would be worth divisions. A gray sky today indicated snow but the ball was light.

Releasing Russian Prisoners

Austrian prisoners taken in the last few days say that the release of Russian prisoners held in Austria began ten days ago. Austria took the initiative in this without waiting for Russia to release Austrian prisoners. Each Russian prisoner was schooled carefully in Austria's desire to end the war and the whole body of these Russian prisoners was returned to Russia as a sort of propaganda for terminating the struggle.

REVIEW OF WAR SITUATION

While the tremendous effort the Austro-Hungarian army in the eastern Trentino is making to gain the passes in the Italian plains resulted yesterday in the pushing back of the Italians line at one point, the vital front remains unbroken.

Italians Seem Confident.

The advance was scored just to the east of Asiago where, according to today's official statement from Berlin, the eminence of Monte Sisemol was stormed. The capture may have been one result of the recession in the Italian line just to the east the day previous after heavy fighting for Monte Fior and Monte Castelgomberto. Dispatches from Italian headquarters have reflected confidence that this new line in this sector was capable of holding the route to the passes.

The number of prisoners taken by Austro-Hungarians has been increased by 4,000, Berlin reports, bringing the total up to 15,000.

Rumanian troops have decided to join the armistice although they have rejected all attempts at fraternization. This announcement is made officially from Jassy. Hostilities have been suspended on the whole Rumanian front, it is stated.

German wedges driven into the salient before Cambrai have compelled the British to evacuate exposed points and they have given up to the Germans several villages west of Cambrai as well as the Bourlon wood. The retirement was carried out so well that the Germans continued to shell the empty positions for several hours, not knowing the British had left them.

The British line has been shortened and made more capable of strong defense by the retirement.

Berlin in its latest report claims the occupation of Maroing, about four miles southwest of Cambrai. Minor German attacks south of Bourlon wood and near La Vacquerie have been repulsed by the British.

Violent Fighting in Italy

Violent fighting continues on the northern Italian front between Asiago and the Brenta river where the Austro-Germans made gains Wednesday but have not yet been able to break the Italian line. The Italians, inflicted

NEW BRITISH CHIEF
IN MESOPOTAMIA

General Sir W. R. Marshall succeeds the late General Maude as commander of the British forces in Mesopotamia.

ing heavy losses on the attackers, retired gradually to prepared positions and gave up Monte Fior and Monte Castelgomberto.

On the western end of the line the Austro-German attempts to encircle the Meletta position, and cut it off were defeated. Along the Brenta east of Monte Badeneche and Monte Tondarecar, lost Wednesday to the enemy, the Italians repulsed with heavy loss a determined effort to break through.

EYE WITNESSES
TELL OF HORRORS

People With Noses Shot Off,
Eyes Put Out, Faces Cut
and Limbs Torn.

BABY BURNS TO DEATH

Seen Fifty Feet Beneath Burning
Wreckage—Rescuers
Unable to Save Child.

ST. JOHNS, N. B., Dec. 7.—Eye witnesses of the Halifax explosion reaching here today told details of the horrors through which they passed. In the party were fourteen young women students from Mount St. Vincent's academy.

Edmond P. Barry, St. Johns postal clerk, was at Richmond during the worst of the catastrophe. "It was terrible," he said, "people dying in our car like flies. Some of them came to the place with noses shot off, eyes put out, faces slashed with flying glass, limbs torn and distorted. On one occasion while we were working around a wrecked building we could see a little baby fifty feet or more underneath a burning mass, crying for aid. We could not get within thirty feet of the child and had to watch while it burned to death. Men and women and children were lying in the streets and hundreds must be buried beneath wreckage."

J. C. Gillespie, a train conductor,

said that at Richmond fully 50 per cent of the building collapsed. Babies were lying in the streets dead. Ernest Cameron, a Canadian Pacific telegraph operator, and all his family were killed.

BOMBING RAIDS
ARE KEPT UP

British Naval Airplanes Constantly Dropping Explosives
on Military Works in
Belgium.

LONDON, Dec. 7.—British naval airplanes on Wednesday and Thursday continued their bombing raids on German military works in Belgium.

"Bombs were observed to explode and fire was caused among huts and sheds," the admiralty report reads. "All our machines returned safely."

"In the course of the usual fighting of patrols two enemy aircraft were destroyed. Four more were shot down completely out of control, three of them being probably destroyed."

CONGRESS PASSES
WAR RESOLUTION

Both Houses Vote and Declaration Now Awaits Signature of President.

SENATE UNANIMOUS

Brief Debate Shows General Sentiment Toward War Including Turkey and Bulgaria.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—The declaration of war on Austria was passed by both houses of congress today with brief debate. President Wilson's signature is now the only thing required. The house accepted the senate resolution.

As the house debate drew toward its close the leaders agreed to substitute the senate resolution for the one reported by the house committee, and thus make the declaration of war a fact tonight. The war resolution then will only require the president's signature.

Some time after the voting was over LaFollette returned to the senate chamber and announced that he would have voted against the Austrian war declaration had he been present unless it had been amended providing that the United States would not be a party to any agreement to take any territory held by Austria prior to August 1, 1914.

By unanimous consent the house substituted the senate resolution for its own. The house resolution by this action was discarded and the vote came on the senate resolution.

The war declaration against Austria was passed by the house late today.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—With less than one hour's debate the senate today passed the resolution declaring war on Austria-Hungary.

The resolution was adopted by the senate unanimously 74 to 0. Senators Gronna of North Dakota, Norris of Nebraska, and Vandaman of Mississippi, who voted against the German war declaration, supported the resolution. Senator LaFollette of Wisconsin left during the speech making, and did not cast his vote.

Meanwhile, there was a severe indication that the resolution would pass in the house with only one dissenting vote—Representative London, Socialist. Members were so sure of that, that they deserted the chamber in droves to escape the speech making and return later for the voting.

After the house meets the two resolutions will be reconciled, or one substituted for the other.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—Chairman Stone of the senate foreign relations committee today presented the senate war resolution against Austria-Hungary and moved its immediate adoption.

Besides the reasons that Austria is Germany's active ally and as such has committed warlike acts against the United States, Senator Stone declared there was the further reason that inasmuch as Italy, France and Belgium comprised one battle front American troops might at any time be facing Austrians.

Senator Stone made no reference to Turkish or Bulgarian relations. "In this great world struggle," said Senator Stone, "I am sure that the intimate and apparently indissoluble relation between the governments of Germany and Austria-Hungary. In the progress of events, it has become manifest that the United States is inevitably as much at war with Austria-Hungary as with Germany. In the circumstances it is impossible that amicable reasons between the two countries should be continued."

U. S. Already at War

"In the prosecution of the war German and Austro-Hungarian troops are co-ordinated and co-operative. On the other hand the United States is sending troops and supplies to aid the Entente allies including vast sums to finance the Entente allies; the governing men, supplies and money to all the Entente governments; the supreme war council has been organized at Paris in which the government of the United States is authoritatively represented and in which also Great Britain, France and Italy are represented to co-ordinate the Allied forces with the view to concert and co-operation in the conduct of the war."

Battle Fronts Defined

"This supreme war council has defined battle fronts in Europe, one of which has been defined as to embrace France, Belgium and Italy. This vast territory is laid out as one continuous battle front under one general command."

"I am told that American troops are, up to this date, massed in France, but if they are operating on one of the long

FLOOD OPENS
HOUSE DEBATE

Chairman of Foreign Relations Committee Asks Unanimous Passage of Resolution.

AUSTRIA'S ACTS OF WAR

Two Mediaeval Governments of Europe Should Be Overwhelmingly Defeated.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—Debate in the house on the resolution to declare war on Austria was opened by Chairman Flood of the house foreign relations committee. He asked the house to pass the resolution unanimously. The declaration, he said, was essential to the welfare of the Allies and further that Austria is an unrestricted and ruthless submarine warfare had sunk American ships and murdered American sailors.

"This is war; war by Austria upon this country," said Mr. Flood. "The assault upon these ships and the murder of these American citizens was as much an act of war against this country as if Austria had landed an army upon our shores and marched it to this city, burning our homes and murdering our citizens as it came. Our flag has been insulted, our territorial integrity invaded, the lives of our citizens taken and to submit would bring irreparable injury, loss and suffering to our people. We should accept the gauge of battle from Austria just as we did from Germany," he declared and dwelt upon the moral effect particularly on Italy, saying it would strengthen the front on the whole Allied cause.

"Let us pass the resolution speedily," he declared, "linking together for overwhelming defeat the two mediaeval governments which plunged the world into war and still stand as the worst obstacle to a just peace among the nations."

No time for a vote on the resolution was set by the house but it was believed it might be expected before 6 o'clock this evening.

GERMAN RAIDERS
DAMAGE LONDON

Rombs Cause Large Fire Near Residential Block and Laundry, Brewery and School-house Destroyed.

LONDON, Dec. 7.—Most of the damage done in London yesterday morning in the German air raid appears to have been the work of a single airplane which hovered over the city and dropped five explosive and two incendiary bombs. One of the explosive bombs fell near a residential block, breaking windows while an incendiary bomb caused a large fire when it fell on a wall paper and brush establishment. A laundry, a brewery and an occupied school and a glassware storehouse also were struck but there were no casualties in these places.

Help Is Arriving

Help from outside began to reach the stricken today. Doctors, nurses and medical and food supplies arrived on special trains from Truro and Windsor, N. S., and from Moncton, N. B. Other trains were reported on the way and were expected to reach here during the day. The special train sent from Boston by direction of Governor McCall of Massachusetts will arrive this evening.

Nearly All Business Suspended

Virtually all business is suspended and the schools are closed while the inhabitants generally are turning their attention to relief work. Soldiers and sailors, including seamen from an American warship which rushed to the port when it received word of the disaster, are patrolling the stricken district and aiding in the rescue work.

Editor Tells Experience.

William Barton, former telegraph editor of the Montreal Gazette, now traveling auditor for the Canadian imperial munitions board at Ottawa, related today his experiences during the explosion. He was at breakfast in the Halifax hotel when the disaster occurred.

People Ordered Out.

Orders were at first given that everybody should flee to the south of the city and in a short time Barrington street resembled a road of Belgium or

TRAINS RUSHING
TO AID STRICKEN
CITY OF HALIFAX

HALIFAX, N. S., Dec. 7.—The matron and all but two of the children at the Protestant orphanage are believed to have perished. Of the two who escaped, one child was not in the building at the time of the explosion.

ABOARD MASSACHUSETTS' RELIEF TRAIN, VIA ST. JOHNS, N. B., Dec. 7.—Exact conditions in Halifax are more appalling than was indicated by last night's reports.

This is a message that was dispatched to Governor McCall this morning by A. C. Ratschky, manager of the Massachusetts' special relief train, after a night spent in gathering bits of information from trainmen and others as the train sped eastward.

The dead are everywhere, said these reports. There is immediate need of a great staff of surgeons and scores of nurses. By 9 o'clock tonight the Massachusetts' union should be in Halifax at the disposal of the chief surgeon who is directing the relief work—the most stupendous task that has confronted the people of Nova Scotia.

At St. Johns, Mr. Ratschky got into communication with the Halifax authorities and learned that supplies and help of every kind would be most welcome. It had not been humanly possible, the authorities said, to take care of the hundreds of injured and many had perished during the night. In improvised morgues, the dead are piled high and uncovered. Scores of these bodies will never be claimed.

Rush to Docks.

"Our plans were quickly made. We were off to the immediate vicinity of the disaster for, among many theories, we accepted as most plausible the blowing up of a munition ship. Towards Citadel Hill we wended our way and the further we went the more horrid the aftermath. The improvised stretcher met us on all sides, converging into the main thoroughfare from the highways and byways. The wounded were everywhere but most of these unfortunates could hobble or walk; we kept onwards.

"Our hurry-scurry had led to the armory. Here the khaki-clad men were already on parade, many of the soldiers showing wounds bound with bandagechiefs.

All Vehicles Commandeered.

"As we passed they were already on the march toward the more devastated area. The order had gone forth 'commandeer all vehicles, auto or horse.' A cordon was drawn across the streets and passengers were forced to alight and resume their journeys afoot. There was grim work ahead.

Awful Result of First Shock. It was established today that it was twenty-five minutes after the collision before the explosion occurred. At the first shock houses rocked, vessels broke from their moorings, bits of shells whistled through the air, buildings fell upon their occupants, shrieks and moans rose for a second above the awful din, and in all parts of the city, men, women and children ran into the streets, many of them insufficiently clad. Then fire broke out in a hundred places.

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American Sanitary Section Is
First to Receive "Fourragere"

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Thursday, Dec. 6.—The first American unit to receive the coveted "Fourragere," (a French military decoration worn on the left shoulder) in the colors of the ribbon of the cross of war, is American sanitary section No. 5. Notification of the award was announced at headquarters today.

The section previously had received

two official citations. A general order from General Petain stated they were for "splendid conduct before the enemy."

In forwarding the communications the chief of the French military mission attached to the American army added:

Merited Reward for Brave Men.

"This glorious distinction is a mer-

ited reward for the brave men composing the section, who on a famous battlefield have given evidence of the fraternity and solidarity between the soldiers of France and America, united in the common cause."

Information as to exact nature of the unit's services was unavailable at headquarters tonight.